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in the manufacture of firearms. Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, Simeon North, Samuel Colt, Pratt & Whitney, and Robbins & Lawrence were the principal manufacturers of arms who developed this system, and their lives and work are narrated in detail.

The work of Brown & Sharpe, who did much to increase the accuracy of measurements, forms an interesting chapter, and the remainder of the book narrates the spread of tool-building from Rhode Island through central New England, the growth of the brass industry in the Naugatuck Valley, the rise of Philadelphia as a great tool-building center, and the development of western machine-shops since 1880. These last chapters are a chronicle of the achievements of a great number of firms both large and small.

It would be unfair to say that the important lines of development of machine tools have been lost sight of by the author, for except in the last few chapters these are kept well in mind. While it is true that the book is in reality a series of interesting anecdotes, yet taken as a whole it is a well-balanced history of the lives and work of the more important English and American tool-builders from 1775 to the present time.

Contemporary Politics in the Far East. By STANLEY K. HORNBECK.
New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1916. 8vo, pp. xii+466. \$3.00 net.

Within the last two decades many books have been written on Japan, on China, and on the broader oriental questions. Some have been special treatises, others very general; few have been devoted to the purely political problems and none have been addressed to the giving of a brief history of Chinese and Japanese politics as they bear on the present crisis in the Far East. Professor Hornbeck, one-time instructor of law in the Chekiang Provincial College and in the Mukden Law College, has made a first-hand study of the political problems of the Orient and gives in this book, partly out of his own experience, a story of the genesis and development of the "prominent institutions, motives, and forces" which underlie and contribute to the present situation. The object of the book is to combine the political features in such a way as to furnish a background for a study of present and future tendencies in Far Eastern politics.

The work is written in two parts. The arrangement of the first part is topical rather than chronological and has involved considerable repetition; however, the story is cumulative, each succeeding topic leading to the last part. Book I treats of the political history of China and Japan; it describes how the Chinese people, holding to *laissez-faire* and "responsible government," brought about the downfall of the old régime, inaugurated the provisional government, and incidentally laid bare the Empire to the inroads of the foreign powers; it tells how the Japanese nation, holding to "paternalism" and "divine right," brought about the transition from feudalism to modern times with little more than a social tremor and placed the Empire in the front rank of world-powers.

To a discussion of contemporary relations between China, Japan, and the United States, the writer in Book II addresses his most serious thoughts. The recent conquest of Korea and Manchuria, the open-door policy, the recent capture of Kiaochow by the Japanese, Japan's Monroe Doctrine for Asia, and the demands of the latter against China in 1915 are taken up and developed as separate problems as they bear on the future of these countries. The writer states that the non-exclusive "protective alliance" proclaimed for the Far East by the Japanese stands as the most stupendous event in recent history of the Orient. The significance and effects of this most daring *coup d'état* will be realized only after the glamor of the present war has passed away.

America has an interest in the Far East. We forced ourselves upon China and Japan and compelled them to open their doors to our civilization; we practically coerced them to accept relations with ourselves and compelled them to use in self-defense "instruments and policies patterned on ours." Thus we have made ourselves parties to the present problem. The question arises, can we withdraw from the scene and allow events to shape the future by themselves? "No amount of present indifference will alter the fact that some day we shall insist that our wishes as to political settlements and commercial opportunities in the Pacific shall be given due consideration." In light of the fact that tremendous changes are taking place in China; that invaluable financial and commercial interests affecting the entire world are being bartered away; that the entire political and economic future of the Orient, even the nature of world-civilization itself, is in the balance—in light of all these facts, can the American people afford to postpone longer a definition of their policy in the Far East? The writer suggests no line of action; his analysis clearly points out that danger awaits further delay.

Die Arbeits- und Pachtgenossenschaften Italiens. By W. D. PREYER.
Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1913. 8vo, pp. 228. M. 6.

This work on the origin, organization and operation, results and possibilities of the Italian co-operative societies organized to construct public works and to lease agricultural land will be of great interest to students of labor, of industrial organizations, and of agricultural economics.

The societies organized to engage in the construction of public works are confined to Ernillia. They are an outgrowth of unions organized under pressure of great unemployment to improve the conditions of the laborers by raising wages and shortening hours. The ever-increasing demands of the laborers pressed hard upon the contractors who were held to a fixed price by their contracts. In 1883 a contractor, pressed by the union, found it more profitable to abandon the work and pay a forfeit rather than meet the demands of the workers. The union organized itself into a co-operative society and completed the work to the satisfaction of the authorities. This was the beginning of co-operative societies engaged in the construction of public